

and volunteering in her church as a Sunday School teacher, choir director and pianist.

On December 15th, her friends and family will celebrate her birthday in her room at Talladega Health Care in Talladega. Today I would like to wish Mrs. Ruby Hartley Barton a very Happy 98th Birthday.

PROMOTING JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009.

Last week the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that during the month of November there were over one million unemployed veterans in this country. The report also showed that the unemployment rate among our newest cohort of veterans ages 18–24 remains extremely high at 20 percent. Moreover, 700,000 of that million are between the ages of 35 and 64, the years of both the highest earning power and the highest financial needs to pay mortgages and tuitions. I ask unanimous consent that the relevant page from the December Bureau of Labor Statistics Report be included in the RECORD with my remarks.

These numbers paint a very disturbing picture of the obstacles veterans face. These men and women have put their lives on the line in the defense of freedom and democracy around the globe, so we must do a better job of helping these warriors find suitable employment opportunities when they return home.

That is why I have introduced the Promoting Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009. The first title of this bill focuses on providing funding and incentives for veterans to pursue training and education that would provide employment opportunities for them in the new economy. It would create a new troops to teachers program to pay new teachers who are veterans and are teaching in a rural area \$500 a month stipend. It would also provide a zip code based housing stipend for unemployed veterans who are participating in a VA approved OJT/Apprenticeship Program.

The second title of the bill focuses on promoting and expanding veteran owned and service disabled veteran owned small businesses. It would reauthorize the VA Veteran Owned Small Business Loan Guaranty Program which would guarantee loans for veteran owned small businesses up to \$500,000. It would also allow VA to enter into sole source contracts with veteran owned small businesses in the same way they can with 8(a) firms.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, firms with fewer than 500 employees accounted for 64 percent—or 14.5 million—of the 22.5 million net new jobs between 1993 and the third quarter of 2008. I firmly believe that veteran owned small businesses can become a driving force in this nation's recovery and this bill will help make that a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this needed legislation.

HONORING ERROTABERE RANCH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Errotabere Ranch upon being the recipient of the 2009 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dan Errotabere of Errotabere Ranch will be recognized at the annual Agricultural Awards luncheon on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California.

Errotabere Ranch is a family operated farm in Riverdale, California and was first established in the 1920's by Mr. Jean Errotabere. By 1979, when Mr. Errotabere passed away, the farm had expanded to include 800 acres of cotton. Today, brothers Dan, Jean Jr., and Remi operate a six thousand-acre diversified farming operation which includes pima cotton, almonds, pistachios, tomatoes, garlic, onions, alfalfa seed, wheat, lettuce and cantaloupes in the Riverdale and the Five Points areas. Each brother is responsible for a specific facet of the business including the finances, crop production and farm equipment. Over the years the family has applied progressive water techniques and technology to better utilize the scarce water resources on the ranch.

The Errotabere family has a long history of community involvement. They have held many leadership roles in the agricultural industry and community organizations. Dan has been an advocate for agricultural water issues, serving on several water-related boards. Dan is also heavily involved with the Fresno County Farm Bureau, currently serving as president. All three brothers are actively involved with Riverdale schools and the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno. The family supports Community Medical Centers, Children's Hospital Central California and has been active in the local United Cerebral Palsy Association.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Errotabere Ranch upon being honored as the 2009 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Errotabere Ranch many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR PRISONERS ACT OF 2009"

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will treat retroactive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income payments due to prisoners consistent with the way ongoing monthly payments are treated.

The "No Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act of 2009" would prevent retroactive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefit payments from being issued to individuals while they are in prison, along with beneficiaries in violation of conditions of parole or probation, or who are fleeing to avoid pros-

ecution for a felony or a crime punishable by sentence of more than one year.

The Social Security Act already bars payment of current monthly benefits to such individuals. This bill ensures this prohibition applies to retroactive benefit payments as well, and allows payments to be paid once the beneficiary is no longer prohibited from receiving payments under the provisions of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ROANOKE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize and congratulate St. Peter Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Texas, as they celebrate the groundbreaking for their first facility.

St. Peter Lutheran Church was founded in September of 2006, when a small group of 37 families from Roanoke and surrounding cities in North Texas decided to plant a new church in their rapidly growing community. The congregation met under the guidance of Pastor Robert Baldur in a school gym, and later in the Roanoke Recreation Center.

The church's small beginnings did not stop them from reaching out to the community. Members of St. Peter Lutheran Church actively contribute to their community in many ways, such as participating in Habitat for Humanity, providing free games and activities for local children at city events, holding food and supply drives for local food pantries, among countless other acts of generosity. The church even has its own barbequeing team—the Holy Smokers—who use their grilling and smoking talents to serve others.

The church now encompasses over 100 families, and is still growing. Their rapidly increasing size has led them to purchase 11 acres of land in Roanoke, where they will break ground on Sunday, December 6, 2009, and build their first multi-use church facility. Future plans also include a school, Concordia Academy, which will one day serve and educate children throughout North Texas.

Madam Speaker, St. Peter Lutheran Church is a shining light in Roanoke, Texas. I am extremely proud to represent Pastor Baldur and the entire church congregation in the 26th Congressional District. Their service to the community is valued and appreciated, and I look forward to watching the church grow, and observing the positive impact they will continue to have in North Texas.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUSCO COMPOSITE SQUADRON OH-277, CIVIL AIR PATROL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: